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REMARKS

Claims 15-17, and 33-35 have been allowed by the Examiner. The Examiner has objected to Claims 7, 9, 19, 25, 27, and 37 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but also stated that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended the claims in such a manner. Applicant has further consolidated and clarified the limitations of such allowable claims into some of the remaining independent claims.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 13 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,078,335, in view of Zwicker et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,639,597. The Examiner has further rejected Claims 14 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Malamy et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,100,898, in view of Hashimoto et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,559,853.

The effective date of the Zwicker and Hashimoto references is 02/28/00 and 02/16/00, respectively. The foregoing rejections are moot, since applicant's invention was conceived of and/or reduced to practice at least as early as 01/31/00. A declaration and exhibit evidencing such are submitted herewith.

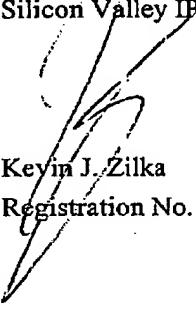
All of the independent claims are thus deemed allowable, along with any claims depending therefrom. An allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 505-5100. For payment of

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the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1351 (Order No. NVIDP013).

Respectfully submitted,  
Silicon Valley IP Group, P.C.

  
Kevin J. Zilka  
Registration No. 41,429

P.O. Box 721120  
San Jose, CA 95172-1120  
Telephone: (408) 505-5100